

on July 6th he became restless, and he died early on Tuesday morning, July 7th, from a severe cerebral haemorrhage.

Dr. Clifford was well known in Manchester, and occupied many important posts. He received his medical education at University College Hospital, London, and graduated M.B.Lond. in 1899, and took the diploma of F.R.C.S.Edin. in 1905. In 1901 he was appointed resident obstetric house-surgeon to St. Mary's Hospitals, Manchester. He had previously been house-physician at University College Hospital, and medical officer to the cancer wing of the Middlesex Hospital. His progress in Manchester was steady; in 1912 he became assistant surgeon and in 1919 surgeon to St. Mary's Hospitals. He was at one time surgeon to the Northern Hospital for Women and Children, Manchester, and latterly surgeon for women to the Salford Royal Hospital. He was also a lecturer on clinical obstetrics in the University of Manchester. He was a member of the North of England Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society for many years, and held the office of president in 1922. He was widely known as a wise adviser and a skilful surgeon in his own department, and had a large practice.

Dr. Clifford was handicapped for the struggle of life by ill health. A delicate infancy left him with rather a poor physique, but he had an alert and active brain, clear judgment, and a cheerful and genial disposition. He gave an example of what could be accomplished by a courageous and resolute spirit in a frail body. He was never fitted for any form of severe physical exercise, and the recreation of outdoor games or any kind of sport was barred to him. It was his lack of stamina which determined his mode of life, and yet one wonders whether, if his lot had been cast in healthier surroundings, he might not have been stronger. As it was, he was content with the life of a town-dweller. He was a bachelor and lived in the centre of the city. He found his pleasure in his work during the day, and in reading and in the society of his friends in the evening. He had a charm of personality which brought him many friends and endeared him to his patients. He was an excellent host and seemed to be happiest when he was entertaining a small circle of friends. His manner was always quiet, and he had a keen sense of humour.

Although he held so many important appointments and had attained to a position of distinction in his special department, he never sought publicity—on the contrary, he did all in his power to avoid it, and preferred to remain in the background. His death has been keenly felt by all who knew him well, and he will be much missed by a large circle of friends and, perhaps most of all, by his colleagues.

A. D.

ROBERT MILNE BEATON, M.B., C.M.,

Late Chairman, London Water Examination Committee.

WE much regret to record the death of Dr. Robert Milne Beaton at his residence in Highbury, on July 21st, at the age of 71. Dr. Beaton received his medical education at Aberdeen and Guy's Hospital, graduating M.B., C.M. in 1883. He was a member of the Council of the British Medical Association from 1912 to 1914, a member of the Executive Committee of the St. Pancras and Islington Division from 1911 to 1912, chairman in 1913, and representative from 1913 to 1916. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the City Division in 1919 and 1920. He took a very active part in the National Insurance controversy of 1911-13, and his eloquence, combined with his evident sincerity, made him a very great influence in the Representative Body and Council as well as in his Division.

Sir ALEXANDER Houstoun writes:

On July 25th at Hampstead Cemetery I had the mournful privilege of paying a last tribute of respect to the memory of my dear old friend, Dr. Robert Milne Beaton.

Dr. Beaton was the first chairman of the Water Examination Committee of the Metropolitan Water Board, and Londoners owe him a deep debt of gratitude for the enthusiastic way in which he threw himself into the task of securing the safety of the supply to the metropolis. He served seventeen years on that committee (seven as chairman), and the splendid work he did will never be forgotten. Dr. Beaton was the staunchest advocate of purity, and at

heart probably cherished the hope of a revival of the so-called London County Council Welsh Water Scheme. At all events he never tired of saying, "I want *clean* water, not *cleaned* water." Failing the provision of a virgin source of supply, he threw himself heart and soul into the task of perfecting purification safeguards. There can be no shadow of doubt that Dr. Beaton's influence is still felt in the affairs of the Board. His hatred of sham and subterfuges, his suspicion of compromises, his passionate love of truth, and the transparent honesty of his motives were bound to influence all those with whom he came into contact.

Some of the other positions held by him were: Representative of the St. Pancras Borough Council, 1903-6; representative of the London County Council, 1906-22; member of the Works and Stores Committee, 1904-5, and June, 1911, to May, 1922; Finance Committee, June, 1907, to June, 1913; General Purposes Committee, 1910-13; and (as already stated) Water Examination Committee, June, 1905, to June, 1922 (Metropolitan Water Board).

Dr. Beaton had a breezy personality; he was brimming over with good humour, and his smile and laugh were infectious and wellnigh irresistible. The kindness of his heart was proverbial, and his goodness to the poor widely known. He will be sorely missed, by no one more deeply and sincerely than his old friend and admirer who sorrowfully writes these notes.

A. BLAYNEY, F.R.C.S.I.,

Surgeon to the Mater Misericordiae Hospital; Assistant Professor of Surgery, University College (N.U.I.).

WE regret to announce the death of Mr. A. J. McAuley Blayney, surgeon to the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, Dublin. For some time past Mr. Blayney had been residing at Howth to convalesce from an attack of influenza. He came into Dublin every day, however, and attended to his extensive practice. A keen golfer, he was walking across the Portmarnock links with his family, when he was seen to stumble and fall. Dr. Cecil Robinson, who happened to be playing close by at the time, hurried to his assistance, but, in spite of all his efforts, Mr. Blayney never recovered consciousness. There was an immediate cessation of all the matches that were being played on the links, and the body was subsequently removed in an ambulance to 15, Merrion Square, Dublin. Mr. Blayney was a frequent visitor to the grounds of the Portmarnock Club, and was a member of the committee, and it was his great interest in golf which had brought him to the links although he was not playing himself. The deceased surgeon leaves a widow and four children. Mr. Blayney was the son of Mr. Alexander Blayney, a ship owner, of Cushendall, co. Antrim, and was born in 1869. After a distinguished career at St. Malachy's College, Belfast, he went to the Catholic University, Dublin, where it was early seen that his natural bent was in the direction of surgery. After a brilliant academic career he took the M.B. and M.A. degrees, and subsequently became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. He had been surgeon to the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, a position which he held for many years; he was extern examiner in surgery at Dublin University and an examiner in biology at the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland, and he also acted for a time as an examiner in surgery for the same body. He had been professor of biology and assistant professor of surgery at University College, Dublin, since 1909, and was visiting surgeon to Maynooth College. Blayney, with all his professional training and vast surgical experience, did not contribute as much as might be expected to the literature of surgery. This was due almost entirely to the fact that when he had done his teaching and operative work there remained for him no time for writing. Amongst his contributions to the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* were: "Removals of great length of intestine" and "Four cases of removal of Gasserian ganglion for epileptiform neuralgia." He was for many years a member of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and his election for the presidency at an early date was assured; he was also a member of the British Medical Association. During the great war he served in France, where he did excellent work.